Production of Minerals in Bihar

*458. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of minerals like iron ore and copper etc. have registered considerable fall during the last decade in the State of Bihar,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the present production of minerals in the State is lower than the production of these minerals in 1960;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what action Government propose to take to increase the minerals production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Production of important minerals in Bihar State during 1960 and 1982 to 1992-1993 is shown in the enclosed statement *[See* Appendix CLXVTII, Annexure No. 57]

(d) and (e) Production of mineralg has declined due to various reasons like depletion of reserves, decrease in demand, development of synthetic substitutes etc. However, efforts for mineral development, wherever[1] possible, continue to be made.

Special vocational education for drop out girls

*459. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL;

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase In the school drop outs in recent years;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of drop outs of girl students, belonging to S.C., ST., S.EB.C. and minority communities in proportion to their population;

(c) whether Government have any special programme to bring the drop outs within the orbit Of the education system;

(d) whether Government are thinking of introducing special vocational education for such drop out children; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH); (a) to (e) The drop-out rates over the years has shown fluctuations as indicated in the date below:—

Year	Drop out rates in percentage (for all communities)		
	CLASSES		
	I—V	I—VIII	I—X
1985-86	47.61	64.42	77.62
1986-87	48.60	64.90	76.94
1987-88	46.97	62.29	75.30
1988-89	47.93	65.40	75.3